VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1523)

Name of Candidate	SHIVAKSHI DIXIT		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	759932
Center	LUCKNOW	Date	20/12/2020

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Enumerate the issues associated with functioning of the Central Information Commission. How can these issues be addressed?
(150 words) 10

केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग की कार्य प्रणाली से संबद्ध मुद्दों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। इन मुद्दों का कैसे समाधान किया जा सकता है?

Central Information commission (CIC) was created as a statutory body under the RTI Act, 2005.

Mandate of CIC - To receive appeals against various Public authorities & PIOs not disclosing information in time.

→ Acts as a 'quasi' judicial body in that it can issue orders, seek information, any documents be released by a Public authority.

Issues with functioning

→ Vacancies - The CICs faces manpower shortage and there have been growing vacancies.

Don't write anything this margin

- Grievance Redressal vs. Information disclosure ~~Complaint~~
  - CIC is not supposed to address grievances but only disclose info but its orders to disclose info often amount to ordering grievance redressal.
- Own machinery - Lacks independent functional machinery for investigation.
- Executive Appointments - Recent amendments (2019) to the RTI Act affect the independence of the Information Commissioners and places them at disposal of executive.

These major lacunae may be corrected by effective & timely appointments, independent machinery, and ensuring their independence.

—— X ——

Don't write anything in this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. In India, Governor's discretionary powers are wider than those of the President. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

भारत में, राज्यपाल की विवेकाधीन शक्तियां राष्ट्रपति की तुलना में अधिक व्यापक हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Governor's office as the constitutional head of the state is an linking pin between the centre & state and a unique manifestation of Indian model of federalism

Governors have express Constitutional discretion granted to them in the following matters:

- Reserving a state legislature bill for President's consideration (compulsory when affecting state HCs position, otherwise Governor's discretion)
- Recommending President's rule in the state
- ~~Suggesting~~ Recommending amount of sum to be paid by Government

Don't write anything this margin (For examiner's use only)

of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram to the autonomous councils in lieu of royalty for mining licenses.

- Appointment of Chief Minister ~~when~~ ~~no~~ in case of hung assembly.
- Administration of UTs as an added charge.

* President only enjoys situational discretion in the following matters;

- Appointment of PM in case of hung assembly
- Dissolution of Lok Sabha incase govt ~~to~~ fails to prove confidence of house
- Dismissal of Council of Ministers in case they ~~to~~ lose ~~confidence~~ majority in the house.

These are also available to the Governor within his own domain vis-a-vis the state legislature but he has added <u>express</u> discretion granted by Constitution which President doesn't have. Thus his discretionary powers broader

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. Highlight the objectives that were sought to be achieved through tribunals. How successful have they been in meeting them? (150 words) 10

उन उद्देश्यों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिन्हें अधिकरणों के माध्यम से प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया गया था। वे उन्हें पूर्ण करने में कितने सफल रहे हैं?

Tribunals were not a part of the original constitution. – added by 42nd CAA, 1976 as part IV-A to the constitution.

2 Articles added –

323 A
↓
Administrative Tribunals by Parliament
↳ Law made that empowers govt to set them up

323 B
↓
Tribunals on other matters – by Parliament & State legislature in respective domain.
Centre (CAT)
State (SATs)

aim –

→ Reduce Pendency before Judiciary over specific matters such as finance, labour, taxation etc.

→ Speedy Justice – Matters of tax: time is money need

Don't write anything this margin (This area is meant for binding)

speedy redressal.

→ Administrative matters too - Aggrieved personnels can access speedy justice.

These aims have not been fully realised as ~~po~~ following issues cripple full functioning of tribunals:

→ Vacancies → Infrastructure lacunae

→ Pendency

→ expensive

→ establishment - that of labour tribunal etc.

Thus,

Tribunals have far from achieved what they set out to. They are often seen as hurdles to be crossed to reach the high courts & Supreme courts. They need to be empowered to realise their full potential.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. Instead of the government regulating Over-the-top (OTT) platforms, there have been calls for a self-regulating mechanism for such platforms, as in the case of print media. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

सरकार द्वारा ओवर-द-टॉप (ओ.टी.टी.) प्लेटफॉर्म्स को विनियमित करने के स्थान पर, ऐसे प्लेटफॉर्म्स के लिए एक स्व-विनियमन तंत्र हेतु आह्वान किया गया है, जैसे कि प्रिंट मीडिया के मामले में किया गया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Regulation of media platforms has always been a bone of contention. With emerging media platforms, the ~~concerns~~ opportunities abound but so do regulatory concerns.

- Print Media self regulates through News Broadcasters & Publishers Association - autonomous bodies exercising self restraint. Press council of India - acts as their moral bulwark.

- OTT Platforms are of new emergence. January - 2020: Platforms like Hotstar, Netflix India agreed on self restraint & regulation but recently -

through a government notification. digital news broadcaster — OTT platforms included have been brought under the broad aegis of IB Ministry.

It is preferred that self regulation be exercised -
↳ democratic
↳ morally responsible behaviour.
↳ coercive regulation often resisted.
Yet, the ~~following~~ ~~arr~~ above arrangement has surmised.

Media thus is a vital resource and the 4th pillar of democracy a fine balance between freedom of expression and regulation in interest of public morality, decency, national security, defamation will have to be struck — It is best done through self control.

— x —

Don't write anything this margin (Col. area for binding)

5. Bring out the arguments surrounding the issue of some states reserving jobs for locals in the private sector. (150 words) 10

कुछ राज्यों द्वारा निजी क्षेत्रक में नौकरियों को स्थानीय लोगों के लिए आरक्षित किए जाने से संबंधित मुद्दे के चतुर्दिक तर्कों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Reservations in jobs have long been solicited as a medium of economic justice in India.

Recently – Haryana govt introduced the resolutions on reserving 75% jobs in local industries for state locals.

- This is not unprecedented – Andhra Pradesh (2019) did the same, similar demands have been raised from Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat.

PROS

- Economic Justice – "Sons of soil" need representation in employment. A mechanism to check rampant unemployment among the unskilled & skilled alike.
- Migration – Inward migration taking away jobs of local forces

to seek opportunities elsewhere.

- Discrimination - Against Muslims, SCs/STs is touted as the reason for their low representation in corporates

CONS

- Protectionist attitude - Impedes national integration
- Unlikely to survive legal / constitutional scrutiny - No violates Article 14, Not in consonance with Article 16 - [only Parliament can make reservations under it, that too in public employment]
- Economically Unsound - Industries will be forced to source local manpower that may not be as skilled. Industries may move out. eg - Haryana has 25% GDP comes from automobile industry (may suffer due to this).

Thus this protectionist attitude does no one any good. Impedes national unity. Education, training & employment promotion must be pursued as a course instead of such measures. -x-

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Identifying the key elements of Mission Karmayogi, briefly explain how it can lead to holistic development of the human resources and state's capacity. (150 words) 10

मिशन कर्मयोगी के प्रमुख तत्वों की पहचान करते हुए, संक्षेप में स्पष्ट कीजिए कि इससे मानव संसाधन और राज्य की क्षमता का समग्र विकास कैसे हो सकता है।

Mission Karmayogi -
The civil services capacity Building Programme 2020 is a new dawn in public human resource management.

Elements

- Rules based → Roles based bureaucracy: Matching aptitude and job roles before placement
- Common service facilities: Integrated training mechanisms (cost effective + synergistic
- iGOT: Integrated Govt. Online Training platform: To provide quality training material designed by ~~expert~~ domain experts & HR practioners

- HPT Dashboard: for Real time monitoring & evaluation of performance, slowly the appointments, deployments will be integrated with it too.

> PM Public Human Resource Council
> &
> National HR Capacity Building Commission to be set up to effect this

Benefits

- Efficient service delivery – by Roles based bureaucracy.
- Accountability & Transparency – due to real time performance monitoring
- Integrated Training – Not in silos – holistic development
- Modernization of work force – Through mid-career training modules that will focus on specialization from generalization.

Thus, Mission Karmayogi is a bright light and a welcomed move to reform the Public HRM practices.

—x—

7. Highlighting the role played by ASHA workers in public health system of India, discuss the challenges faced by them. (150 words) 10
भारत की सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में आशा कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका को रेखांकित करते हुए, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

ASHA - Accredited Social Health Workers are the lifeblood of India's ICDS scheme.

They have made valuable contributions to India's public maternal & child health programmes so far.

The COVID pandemic saw them working as frontline COVID warriors in the following ways:

- Conducting surveys - door to doors
  - For quarantining and testing.
- Conducting tests along with public healthcare workers
- Spreading awareness as they have social networks built with

Don't write anything in this margin

local women & thus households.

- Helped flag off cases of domestic violence that were on a rise amidst lockdown.

Challenges faced by them

- No social security - health insurance etc.
- ~~No~~ Minimal wages / Remuneration
  - Not remunerative or incentivising.
- ~~Effective~~ Discrimination - Faced amidst pandemic. Ill-treated by locals while trying to test or conduct survey.

ASHAs have been harbingers of social change in the domain of family planning and nutrition they may have a crucial role to play in vaccine delivery & reducing vaccine hesitancy too. thus they must be rewarded, remunerated and protected well.

8. While internationalisation of higher education has many potential benefits for India, certain challenges will need to be addressed in this regard. Discuss. (150 words) 10

यद्यपि उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के भारत के लिए कई संभावित लाभ हैं, तथापि इस संबंध में कुछ चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता होगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

Higher education in India is a sought after public resource. There have been attempts at determining the right model to ensure quality as well as access of to higher education.

Internalization is touted on grounds of quality - That engagement with international institutes, teachers and students will bring 2 benefits:

↳ Primarily: Quality of research & education goes up.

↳ secondarily: Economic (bringing in foreign exchange with international students & research grants & ~~provent~~ giving Indian students good opportunities at home so they don't seek it abroad).

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Challenges

- State of Indian University - only 6 Indian Universities in QS world Ranking - (All engineering Institutes).
- Diversity of academic domains:
  - business, finance, humanities lacking.
- State Control over Universities - pedagogy, curriculum, assessments.
- Research - Not pursued as a domain specifically.

These challenges need addressing before programmes like Study in India Programme (2018); The National Education Policy - Foreign ambitions (allowing campuses in India + Indian campuses abroad); Institute of Eminence Status - giving autonomy, foreign collaborations etc. are good step in this direction.

9. India needs to adopt a more pragmatic stance in the context of the ongoing intra-Afghan talks. Discuss, in the light of India's engagement with Afghanistan. **(150 words) 10**

भारत को वर्तमान में जारी अंतरा-अफगान वार्ताओं के संदर्भ में अधिक व्यावहारिक रुख अपनाने की आवश्यकता है। अफगानिस्तान के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

India's relationship with Afghanistan is a special equation in South Asia - ~~that~~ of development partnership and goodwill.

Intra-Afghan talks have been on and seek to bring peace to Afghanistan.

India's stance: has always been principled on 2 things:

- The ~~initi~~ Afghan peace process must be Afghan led, Afghan owned & Afghan controlled.
- Besides, Taliban is a terrorist organization and it cannot grant it a legitimacy.

Yet, with the evolving picture on the ground India sent unofficial delegation to Moscow Talks (2018)

and officials to Doha Peace Agreement signing in 2020 - February.

· India has adopted the practical stance that: Any process bringing stability and peace to Afghanistan is welcomed provided:

- It doesn't create terrorist controlled spaces
- And includes all sections & their interests.

This is a highly pragmatic stance coming from India and it must be this line because it has development partnership with Afghanistan, besides fallout in Afghanistan poses immediate security concerns for India. Even in the present form, the peace agreement can create problems in the form of Mujahideens being diverted to India. — Thus it needs to adopt a pragmatic approach and respond to the turning tides accordingly.

—— x ——

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. In the geo-strategic context of West Asia, the recent efforts to normalise relations between Israel and UAE may open new possibilities for India. Analyse. **(150 words) 10**

पश्चिम एशिया के भू-रणनीतिक संदर्भ में, इजरायल और यू.ए.ई. के मध्य संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने के लिए हाल ही में किए गए प्रयासों से भारत हेतु नई संभावनाएं उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Abrahamic accord being signed between UAE and Israel establish full diplomatic equations between the Arab Kingdom and the Jews' land.

~~Bec~~ This event has many repercussions for the politically sensitive West Asia, but India too has many possibilities opened up for itself. Viz.

Nature of Relationship

- Both Israel & UAE are key trade & diplomatic partners
  - of India = UAE - 2nd largest trade partner (Economic survey, 2020)

Israel - has possibilities for defence, agriculture & tech collaborations.

Don't write anything this margin (Institute use at home)

- Thus normalising relations between them will improve trade & developmental partnerships for India.

- **Diaspora** - UAE hosts a significant Indian diaspora that will benefit from partnership with Israel and remittances back home will increase.

Thus, this is a positive development between 2 of India's closest allies in the West Asia and opens a plethora of opportunities for all concerned.

—— x ——

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. It is not only the content of election manifestos but also the past performance with respect to promises made in election manifestos that need to be regulated. Discuss. (250 words) 15

केवल चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों की विषयवस्तु को ही नहीं, बल्कि चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों में किए गए वादों से संबंधित विगत निष्पादन को भी विनियमित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Elections - rightly termed the carnival of democracy are a much watched event in the Indian electoral politics.

While the ECI as the regulator and director of Indian elections does a great job of conducting free & fair elections — There is always a scope for improvement.

- Election manifestos - contain the promises, claims & predicts on which parties & candidates contest elections.

They are regulated in terms of their content:

cannot contain matters leading to

- Communal tension
- promoting social evils - untouchability, dowry etc
- Defamatory content.

To ensure the dignity of electoral activity.

Yet, there is a proposition to make manifestos meaningful -

* They are released during elections, half attended to by electorate and absolutely forgotten by all after the election.

- They can be made meaningful by treating them as "standards" & promises on which the ~~previous~~ performance is adjudged.
- There must be an explanation by the parties before releasing a new manifesto - about how far were they able to achieve the previous manifesto;

Don't write anything this margin (for binding purpose)

→ This can be done by an affidavit before ECI
→ Must be publicized so electorate knows the efficiency of its representatives.

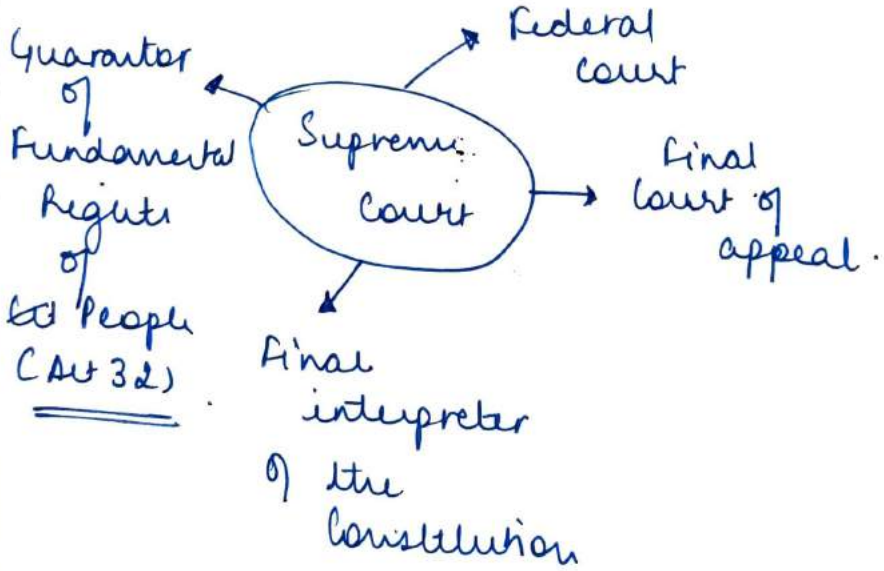
Accountability will be established through this mechanism. They will be treated with sincerity by both the electors & the candidates and "policies of work" & "results" can be ensured.

This will go long way in making elections a constructive exercise – beyond simply casting votes – instead holding our representatives to account.

12. In order to achieve a reduction in the pendency of cases and a return to the Supreme Court's original role as a final appellate court, setting up of a National Court of Appeal is the need of the hour. Discuss. (250 words) 15

लंबित वादों की संख्या में कमी लाने और उच्चतम न्यायालय को अंतिम अपीलीय न्यायालय के रूप में उसकी मूल भूमिका में पुनः स्थापित करने के लिए, एक राष्ट्रीय अपील न्यायालय स्थापित करना समय की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Supreme Court, as the apex institution at the helm of Indian judiciary plays multifarious and significant roles. viz



To reinstate its role as that of a final court of appeal — a National Court of Appeal is suggested.

Don't write anything this margin

This National Court of Appeal will take appeals against the orders of lower courts and only one final appellate authority above it will rest with the supreme Court.

- This will reinstate supreme Court to its originally envisaged role.
- Reduce Pendency
- More time to dwell upon constitutional questions in a timely and judicious manner.

Yet the suggestion is not free from challenges:

- It will add another layer in the ~~bas~~ already tall judicial hierarchy in India – Delay in final justice for citizen.

- Expensive to go through so many hierarchial levels.
- It will be a sub-par institution right below supreme court and might ~~erode~~ ~~its~~ ~~so far~~ ~~discharged~~ ~~role~~ create a conflict with its status as a court of appeal.

The present SC structure and functions seek of ills of delay & pendency, they can perhaps be solved by this National Court of Appeal by clearly delineating its powers & structure and ensuring ~~so~~ easy & timely access to citizens.

— x —

VISION IAS™

13. The Constitution of India reflects an amalgamation of spirit of Indian freedom struggle and various administrative provisions of different acts of British rule in India. Explain. (250 words) 15

भारत का संविधान भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष की भावना और भारत में ब्रिटिश शासन के विभिन्न अधिनियमों के अनेक प्रशासनिक प्रावधानों के मिश्रण को दर्शाता है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

Constitution of India is a vibrant living document that celebrates the grand & noble vision of India's freedom struggle as well as draws upon various pre-existing British administrative provisions.

Spirit of Indian freedom struggle visible in the philosophy of the Constitution

- Fundamental Rights
  - A set of fundamental Rights was envisaged by the Indian National Congress at
- DPSPs
  - They reflect
    - socialistic democratic dream of India
  - under Articles 38, 39, 41, 42, 43

Karachi session of INC - 1931
(FR in Indian Constitution very much on those lines)

- Protecting Rights, culture of linguistic, ~~cultural~~ minorities, economic justice, freedom of religion being intrinsic part of both.

- Motilal Nehru Report (1928)
too focused around Universal Adult Suffrage, Freedom of Religion.

- Gandhian DPSPs are centered around this reconstruction programme during freedom struggle.
  - ↳ Co-operative societies (43 B)
  - ↳ PRIs (40)
  - ↳ Protection to SCs/STs (46)
  - ↳ Protection of ~~environment~~ animals, cattle (48)

- Liberal - Intellectual DPSPs
  - ↳ Reflect ideals of Uniform Civil Code (44 - cherished by Dr. Ambedkar)
  - ↳ educational endeavours. (45).

Broadly - ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity, social & economic justice - even if borrowed in words from other Constitution - the spirit behind them stems from our own experiences & felt need during the national struggle.

British Indian Acts

various administrative provisions have been largely drawn from the British era laws for the sake of familiarity & continuity.

- **Govt. of India Act 1935** - Judiciary, office of Governor, emergency provisions, Public service Commission,
- **the Indian Penal Code** - 1860 - the entire criminal justice Act

continues from the era, of course modified for the needs of the day.

Thus Indian constitution was handcrafted by the constitution makers to suit Indian needs, drawing from our own experiences & administrative exigencies.

Don't write anything in this margin (Shaded area is for binding)

14. Mention the key components of the SVAMITVA scheme. Also, highlight its intended benefits and discuss the potential issues in its implementation. **(250 words) 15**

स्वामित्व (SVAMITVA) योजना के प्रमुख अवयवों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके अपेक्षित लाभों को रेखांकित कीजिए तथा इसके कार्यान्वयन में संभावित मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

SVAMITVA scheme was inaugurated on the auspicious occassions of the Panchayati Raj Day — March 2020.

The scheme aims to reform land administration in rural areas & empower people viz:

COMPONENTS

- Modern technology - drones will be used to survey inhabited lands and prepare GIS based land maps.
- Land Records - will be digitized and scientifically measured & dilineated land ~~ras~~ deeds will be provided to the people.

giving them the SVAMITVA or the proof of ownership of their lands.

Benefits -

↳ empower rural citizens viz:

- Collaterals for loans
- Protection against illegal eviction from, and occupation of land.
- Investments can be made on one's own agriculture land with a sense of security.

Potential Issues in implementation:

- ~~Accessing existing~~ land records and establishing a ~~proof and match~~
- Skilled manpower needed in land mapping.

- rural citizens need to be made aware about the technology and security of their land. to gain their confidence in scheme.
- Synergy - Across the 3 tiers — Center, state, PRIs needed - difficult to secure.
- Collating existing land records data

Thus, this is a promising scheme that puts the proof of ownership in the hands of the people and empowers them. It will be implemented through concerted co-operation between Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Min of Rural Development and the local administration.

—— x ——

Don't write anything in margin

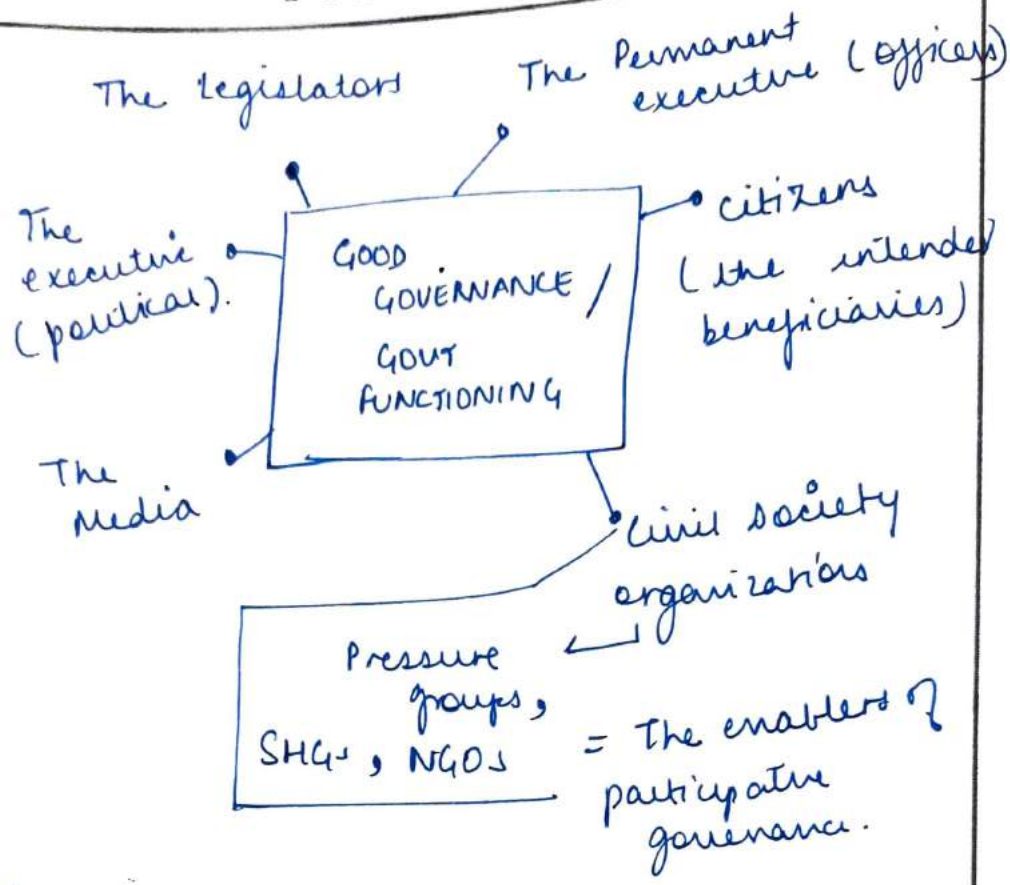
15. Sharing of information among all stakeholders in government functioning is a leading practice towards good governance. Discuss with examples.
(250 words) 15

सरकारी कार्यप्रणाली में सभी हितधारकों के मध्य सूचना को साझा करना सुशासन के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण परिपाटी है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Good governance is the vision that all welfare states dream of and promise to their citizens. It is an ever-worded and under-worked concept particularly due to the complex & multifaceted parts involved in it.

A central pillar of good governance is information sharing - between all the stakeholders ~~as~~ in government functioning.

The multiple stakeholders in a ~~govts~~ functioning are viz-



Access to Information is a precondition to expression and speech. Thus Right to Information has been identified as a prerequisite for Freedom of speech and expression to be effective & participative democracy to flourish.

- Various stakeholders can benefit from information sharing viz:

Don't write anything this margin (Int. marks) Fold an leaves

→ between the Political executives –
collaboration & coordinated policies –
No overlap, duplication of resources.

→ between executive & legislature –
It will arm the legislators with the requisite info they can question & suggest improvements in policies as well.
'Pooled Intellect'

→ between Govt and the citizens
→ Media
→ civil society

→ Media & civil society can work for awareness generation on schemes thereby improving people's access to it.
→ Suggest improvements
→ Flag off people's concerns – eg – if Agri bills were duly presented for public suggestion, the present impasse could have been prevented.
→ Bridge gap between governing & governed
Information sharing works at the root of good governance by ensuring accountability & transparency & keeps the authorities on their toes, checks corruption, ensures active people's participation in governance.

—x—

16. India has an oversized and bloated government which acts as a drag on economic efficiency and growth. Critically evaluate. (250 words) 15

भारत में आवश्यकता से अधिक आकार और अतिशय दायित्वों को वहन करने वाली सरकार है, जो आर्थिक दक्षता एवं वृद्धि के संबंध में एक अवरोध के रूप में कार्य करती है। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Indian government is modelled around the Parliamentary system of organising a Polity. India opted for a democratic polity with representation of people through their elected ones. Every representative, at every level of government - Centre
- State or
- local

is a representation of some thousands of Indians. As a populous country, the number of representatives is naturally on the higher side.

↳ The government (executive - Political / Permanent) is heavily drawn from the

established British machinery and is thus bulky in nature.

Although that cannot be touted as a cause for economic inefficiency or growth constraints.

→ Economic inefficiencies arise on account of:

↳ weak statistical processes of data collection & analysis - leading to poor public financial management.

↳ Govts are welfare providers and have to respond to exigencies without the cost-benefit analysis eg - the Fiscal Deficit breaches owing to the Pandemic.

→ Growth constraints - are structural as well as cyclical.

structural overhaul needs policy uptick

Don't write anything in this margin (Col. area is meant for binding)

and alacrity of people to accept it.

— eg. Recent farm laws seek to overhaul the agricultural structure but have not been designed by taking farmers into confidence.

It is more of an issue of policy paralysis and little to do with the size of the Govt.

Infact, there is always a need to pump up the number of judicial officers (to deal with pendency), administrative officers (to plan & execute on the ground) and the police personnels to implement law & order mandate. The size of the Council of Ministers was limited by the 91st CAA, 2003 and the number of seats in the Parliament have been frozen till 2026.

Thus, the Indian government is not oversized but there are other issues that merit addressing for ensuring efficiency.

— x —

Don't write anything in this margin

17. Though the National Digital Health Mission is a step in the right direction for both patients and the healthcare system, concerns around data privacy need to be addressed. Examine. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य मिशन रोगियों और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली, दोनों के लिए उचित दिशा में उठाया गया एक कदम है, तथापि डेटा गोपनीयता से जुड़ी चिंताओं का समाधान किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

National Digital Health Mission 2020. announced on the Indian Independence Day has not come a day sooner. It has surmised at the most opportune time when we are facing the issues with our existing fragmented health infrastructure amidst a pandemic.

Key Components

- ~~National~~ Digital Health Id - A digital repository of patient health history (voluntary)
- Digi Doctor - A registry of all practicing doctors in India
- EPRO - Electronic Patient Record Patients health card from ~~an~~ ~~opo~~ a clinic in electronic form.

Don't write anything in this margin (binding area) area is kept.

The policy had been under consideration since the days of National Health Policy 2017 and a ~~Be~~ National Digital Health blueprint was presented in 2019.

It has finally surmised.

PROs

- Integration of digital health records from various doctors - Interoperability and ease of constructing patient history.
  [Health Id].
- Digi Doctor - An amalgam - a central registry of all registered medical practioners.
  - Promote authorized practice,
  - Protection from quacks
  - Promote medical tourism
- Voluntary Programme - The EPRO & Digital health ID are voluntary ~~and~~ tech to be availed at citizens will.

Don't write anything in this margin

CONS

- Sensitive data - Medical data needs concerted protection.
- Digital Divide - The healthcare is already outside the bounds of poor & illiterate, this will ~~is~~ push them further down on their digital illiteracy.
- Data Colonialism - Data sovereignty needs to be ensured.. The Mission envisages participation of private tech solutions provider for the EPROs. If foreign participants allowed data protection can be endangered.

The mission is a much needed step in a good stride but India's fundamental deficit of a Data Protection Regime needs addressing. With data protection laws enacted & sovereignty of data protected mission should enthuse confidence among people & will be lapped up quickly. x

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. One Nation One Ration card has the potential to significantly transform the lives of migrant workers in India. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**
वन नेशन वन राशन कार्ड में भारत में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के जीवन को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

" One Nation One Ration Card " launched in 2019 under the aegis of Integrated Public Distribution System (I-PDS)

the ~~mission~~ scheme has shown a felt need for its implementation in the pandemic.

Components

- Aadhar linking of Ration cards.
  ↓
- e-Pos devices installed over the Ration shops.
  ↓
- Ration card holder can withdraw ≤ 50% of the sanctioned ration on his card anywhere in the country (after all states implement it)

Don't write anything this margin (for examiner use only)

Benefits - Migrant workers stand to benefit the most out of the scheme. As the COVID migrant crisis pointed out.

- seasonal migrants - working in any state will be able to access their share of the rations. ($\leq 50\%$ allowed so that rest of the family isn't deprived).

As the COVID situation pointed out lack of migrant data affects planning for them, through this a tap can be kept on that too. Interoperability of the PDS was strongly felt during the lockdowns which is otherwise experienced by the migrants any which way. This scheme will realise the vision of "Food for all" in true sense.

Many states have adopted the scheme (since PDS is state enforced) others will ~~probe~~ comply by April 2021. It will be one of the positives in governance of migrants that will take away from this situation and can transform their lives viz.

- Food security
- Savings (of meagre earnings earlier spent on food) — can now be deployed in education, health + better standard of living.

Thus, this basic scheme can have multiplier effect across the lives of the migrant workers.

—— x ——

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. The World Trade Organization is buffeted by multiple challenges which have eroded the credibility of the organization. Analyse. (250 words) 15
विश्व व्यापार संगठन कई चुनौतियों से ग्रस्त है, जिसने संगठन की विश्वसनीयता को समाप्त कर दिया है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

WTO - World Trade Organization turned 25 this year and has many achievements to its credit - viz: propagating free trade in goods (GATT), services, FDI investment (TRIMS), IPR consciousness - TRIPS.

Yet, its present status is one of eroded credibility and dwindling legitimacy.

CHALLENGES FACED BY WTO.

Institutional Mechanism - WTO's dispute resolution mechanism the Governing Council & the Appellate Body fell through after US impeded appointments to

the Appellate Body.
↳ (because its purposes were not serve)
= This establishes WTO as a tool of the western world that lacks independence to command international multilateral legitimacy.

↳ Unfinished Agenda - The Doha Round of Amendments remain an unfinished agenda at WTO.

↳ Failures as regards subsidies
WTO has failed to check unfair subsidy regimes of both the developed & developing countries (US - fisheries & farm subsidies case).

↳ The Trade Wars - Nothing eroded WTO's legitimacy like the unabashed exchange of trade barbs between USA & China primarily (& of course influencing the

rest of the world). – WTO failed to check unabashed tariff impositions on steel & aluminium exports and has now ~~so~~ ~~not~~ ~~over~~ lost credibility as a global trade regulator.

The inherent weaknesses of WTO and many of its contemporaries like the WHO lie with → their lack of power to ~~bound~~ bind the countries by their sanctions.

→ Financial & administrative dependence on the western world (Head: USA).

~~It has~~ ~~gross~~ Despite the lost glory, WTO as an idea holds a lot of potential specially today - a strong multilateral trade regulator & facilitator is needed more than ever now - specially in this e-commerce age and proliferating FTAs. WTO can and must revive its glory.

x———

Don't write anything in this margin

20. BIMSTEC is indispensable for India's efforts in promoting regional cooperation and integration in the neighbourhood. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**
बिम्सटेक (BIMSTEC) पहोग में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग और एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में किए जाने वाले भारत के प्रयासों हेतु अपरिहार्य है। चर्चा कीजिए।

BIMSTEC, an regional association birthed in 1997 through the Bangkok declaration is India's most significant regional association in the South Asian region as of today - specially amidst a ~~faited~~ Paralysed SAARC and a weaker BBIN.

BIMSTEC is important to India because:

- Intra regional trade between the BIMSTEC countries is quite significant and has a potential to uptick.

- ~~Nort~~ North East development -

India is land connected with Myanmar & Thailand through the North eastern part of the country and projects like

- Mekong - Ganga Project
- Kaladan Multimodal Project
- India - Myanmar - Thailand Highway

can be harbingers of development to its North eastern ~~pr~~ states.

- Cultural ties - Ethnic ties with Myanmar & Buddhist cultural ties with Thailand ~~assist~~ support the diplomacy.

- India's Neighbourhood First & Look East

Don't write anything this margin

are both served well through this regional association.

Thus BIMSTEC is central to India's regional integration efforts. Most of the participant countries share similar socio-economic issues and are looking for trade & cultural partnerships which the initiative serves. It is not without the scare of the Chinese angle with its infrastructure investments in Bangladesh, Myanmar & Thailand yet - BIMSTEC is India's chance to develop meaningful development partnerships in the region.

VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1699)

Name of Candidate	SHIVAKSHI DIXIT		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	759932
Center	LUCKNOW.	Date	20/12/2020

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. The practice of passing of bills without the scrutiny by the parliamentary standing committees undermines their significance and sets a wrong precedent. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

संसदीय स्थायी समितियों द्वारा संवीक्षा के बिना विधेयकों को पारित करने की परिपाटी, उनके महत्व को क्षीण करती है तथा गलत दृष्टांत स्थापित करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Legislative function of the Parliament is its most vital domain. It is exercised through the debate, discussion, analysis and scrutiny of the various bills and resolutions.

various Parliamentary devices & bodies have imp. role to play ~~in~~ in it:

- ~~Devices~~ - Parliamentary Committees

Particularly the 24 Departmental standing committees are vital institutions where members of both houses and both - the treasury and opposition can have a significant role to play in it.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Recently, the 3 Agriculture laws were passed without due discussion in the Parliament & without referring them to the scrutiny of Parliamentary Standing Committees.

Impact

- The role & standing of these Committees as detailed scrutinizers is scuttled. Their importance ignored.
- Opposition valuable inputs ignored
- This sets a bad precedent where the discussion and consultation based process of law making is monopolized. The impact is being seen in the form of farmers' protest since opposition & pressure groups' views were not considered, which these committees could have done.

—x—

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. The right to recall is a much-needed step to deepen democracy in India. Critically discuss. (150 words) 10

भारत में लोकतंत्र को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु 'राइट टू रिकॉल' एक अत्यंत आवश्यक कदम है। आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Recall is a political device that gives the citizens the right to call for the removal of any public official.

It is seen as one step to deepen democracy as it gives the people [the reservoir of all authority in a democracy] – the right to remove public officials on grounds of:

- corruption
- misconduct
- inefficiency
- maladministration etc.

and therefore will establish direct exercise of democracy by people.

Yet, its efficacy in India is questionable.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- ~~Has~~ Populous country - Direct exercise of recall is practically cumbersome.
- Possibility of misuse - Just like elections - opinions in recall can be influenced and honest officials - (elected / nominated) ~~to~~ could be the victims.

This wouldn't be democracy deepening.

- ~~As~~ In the Indian milieu today - an independent judiciary serves the purpose of ~~reasoning~~ fair investigation & action. ~~In~~ For departmental purposes - Ombudsmen, CVC units in division can serve the purpose. Recently Haryana govt is mulling exercising recall but its role in deepening democracy + ~~practi~~ ~~of~~ operationability is questionable.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. Is anti-defection law a restriction on the freedom of choice of legislators? Examine and also highlight the role played by the Speaker in this regard. **(150 words) 10**

क्या दल-बदल रोधी क़ानून विधि-निर्माताओं (लेजिस्लेटर्स) की 'चयन की स्वतंत्रता' पर एक प्रतिबंध है? परीक्षण कीजिए और साथ ही इस संदर्भ में,अध्यक्ष द्वारा निभाई जाने वाली भूमिका को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Anti-defection law under the Xth schedule of the Indian Constitution as brought in by the 52nd CAA, 1985 is an over-worked but under worked concept.

It disqualifies sitting MPs & MLAs for - voluntarily giving up the membership of the Party from which they've been elected.

It is different from resignation because even voting against Party directions in the house and such act not being condoned off by the Party can amount to defection.

This is often questioned as though putting a restriction on the freedom

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

of choice and opinion of a legislator.

→ They cannot even express their genuine ideas & opinions on regular resolutions and have to toe the party line. It reduces them to party puppets & not representative of a set of people.

[Solution] It is often suggested that voting on party lines should be mandatory only on resolutions deciding confidence in the Govt.

Speakers role in the anti-defection law disqualification has been questioned on grounds of their political affiliations - not acting on resignations, purposely disqualifications [eg - Karnataka case] [M.P. case].

SC, noted speakers sitting as Tribunals have autonomy to decide on disqualifications - must be done free from political affiliations and in reasonable time. Their freedom to interpret "voluntary giving up" must not be misused.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. Inter-state river water disputes have been among the most pressing issues faced by the Indian federal system. In this context, examine the potential of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in addressing the issues involved. **(150 words) 10**

अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद, भारतीय संघीय प्रणाली द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले सर्वाधिक अहम मुद्दों में से एक रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, इसमें सम्मिलित मुद्दों के समाधान में अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2019 की क्षमता का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Inter-state River water disputes are one critical area of inter state co-operation — as recognized by the Constitution under Article 262.

In practice it has been a sore point in ~~federal~~ co-operative federalism.

Under Article 262 The Parliament is empowered to:

- Provide for adjudication of inter state River water dispute through laws.
- Keep such issues outside courts' jurisdiction.

~~River~~ Wat
- River Boards Act, 1956
- Inter state River Water Dispute Tribunal Act, 1956

enacted in pursuance.

- Currently Rail Govt establishes ad hoc tribunals under the 1956 Inter State River Water Dispute

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Tribunal Act. They adjudicate issues & give final & binding judgements.

Inter-state Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- Seeks to establish a permanent tribunal that would address adjudicate such disputes.
- ad-hocism would be done away with.
- ~~Same~~ Dedicated Tribunal - expertise, quick adjudication instead of lingering cases and pendency.

River water disputes have been tricky eg- Cauvery Tribunal's tryst with the 4 ~~par~~ state parties espoused the need for such an action.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. The expressions 'equality before the law' and 'equal protection of the laws' may seem to be identical, but, in fact, they mean different things. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

'विधि के समक्ष समता' और 'विधियों का समान संरक्षण' वाक्यांश एक-समान प्रतीत हो सकते हैं, किन्तु, वास्तव में, उनके अर्थ भिन्न-भिन्न हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Article 14 of the Indian constitution deals with 2 important phrases that are bulwark of equality within the Indian territory to one and all. viz

→ Equality before Law:

↳ No special privileges to any classes.

↳ Equal subjugation of all to ordinary law of land enforced through ordinary courts

↳ No person - high / low, rich / poor / official / unofficial, above law.

→ Equal Protection before law -:

↳ similar ~~application~~ of treatment to all under similar circumstances.

↳ similar application of laws to all those similarly placed.

↳ like being treated like without

any discrimination.

The two phrases appear similar when read in a breath but different in meaning as seen above & in origin

Equality before Law	Equal Protection before Law
→ British origin	→ American origin
→ A negative concept - imposes restriction	→ Positive concept - grants action

both are 2 roads to the same destination of establishing an egalitarian society

where all persons - natural, judicial, Indian or not are guaranteed an equal treatment before law + protection under law as a matter of principle and right within Indian territory.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Idea of the Civil Services Board has been widely hailed as a key civil services reform, however it is not without its own limitation. Comment.

(150 words) 10

एक महत्वपूर्ण सिविल सेवा सुधार के रूप में सिविल सेवा बोर्ड के विचार का व्यापक रूप से समर्थन किया गया है, हालांकि इसकी भी अपनी सीमाएँ हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Civil Services Board has been under discussion for quite some time to regulate the services as a nodal body.

Its touted function:

- Decide on personnel appointment, qualification, deployment.
- Take note of departmental enquiries.
- Play a role in determining their conduct and ethical role.
- Regulate service conditions and disciplinary actions.

It is being touted as a one-stop destination for

civil services matters and a key reform but some apprehensions abound:

→ Its creation - appointment, constitution will still be an executive action. not very different from what is being done by DoPT.

→ Overlap - Jurisdiction with DoPT, CVC, UPSC.

→ Limited Powers - As regards disciplinary action.

Thus, the touted reform will still be an executive body only adding to multiplicity of such regulatory bodies. ~~yet~~ - a more pertinent reform can be by expansion such powers in the DoPT division

—x—

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. It is argued that the introduction of compulsory voting in India would strengthen its democratic credentials. Critically analyze. (150 words) 10
यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि भारत में अनिवार्य मतदान की शुरुआत से इसकी लोकतांत्रिक साख सुदृढ़ होगी। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Right to vote is technically a constitutional and legal right in India granted under Article 326 of Constitution.

The suggestion of compulsory voting insists on making it a duty. There is an element of coercion in it. While it may move everybody to the election booths - its role in deepening & strengthening democracy is questionable -

Here's why -

- Right - To vote also entails right not to vote. Forcing people to vote will be a violation of their right.

- Coercion & democracy - antithesis of each other
- Strengthening democracy - needs:
  - voter education
  - decriminalization of Politics
  - Informed & independent voting over compulsory voting.
- Possibility for misuse - The number game of electoral Politics will force misuse of this duty and purchasing votes will become rampant over soliciting them. Money & Muscle power will further cement in the Indian elections.

Thus, strengthening democracy is a continuous process and must take its course. Electorate's awareness, education and a felt need to put the right person on positions besides constant political participation (even beyond just voting) is what will strengthen democracy.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. Setting up of an Open Government Data (OGD) Platform can potentially be a game-changer for transparency and accountability. Analyse. Also, identify the challenges that remain in translating this potential into reality. **(150 words) 10**

ओपन गवर्नमेंट डेटा (OGD) प्लेटफ़ॉर्म की स्थापना संभवतः पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही के लिए गेम-चेंजर हो सकती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संभाव्यता को वास्तविकता में परिणत करने के समक्ष विद्यमान चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए।

Open Government Data

Platform is touted as portals that will contain express information & data from govts - i.e. various Ministries, Departments & public offices.

The idea is to operationalize the article 4 of the RTI to make express disclosures by the public authorities the norm. (Very few authorities actually make self disclosures).

PROs

- Real time access to information for citizens, researchers = Participative democracy

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- Open platform - will facilitate statistical use and changes that can add value to govt. data presentation use.
- Permeate a culture of Transparency (the norm, secrecy = exception) and Accountability - The obligation to give out data on performance will keep authorities on toes.

Challenges

- Big data Processing - Public authorities handle bulk data.
- Data Protection + Privacy - Cyber threats
- Data Sovereignty - Tech platform managers must be Indian based.
- Open Platform - more susceptible to misuse.
- Awareness - Among people to be able to use such platforms meaningfully

Thus, it is a well intended initiative, if implemented and will serve the "data century" well.

—x—

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. There have been concerns related to foreign funding to NGOs in India. In this context, examine the current framework regulating the same.

(150 words) 10

भारत में NGOs की विदेशी फंडिंग को लेकर चिंताएँ रही हैं। इस संदर्भ में, इसे विनियमित करने वाले वर्तमान ढांचे का परीक्षण कीजिए।

NGOs are key civil society ~~partn~~ actors that play a very significant role in bridging the gap between the citizens and the government initiatives.

A major concern regarding Indian NGOs – The foreign funding they receive.

FCRA, 2010 – Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010.

Regulates these NGOs

- Recently the FCRA was amended to provide for the following:
- Every NGO receiving foreign funding to open a savings bank A/c at SBI main branch – New Delhi [To keep a regulatory oversight]

- NGOs prohibited from sub-directing the funding received from abroad.
- Ministry of Home Affairs has gained tightened powers over cancellation of the registration of the NGOs.

The concern is that the NGOs are being used as conduit to infuse laundered money besides conducting propaganda ~~out~~ through foreign support. While there may be evidence to support the view regulations must ensure the critical role played by NGOs in civil society - specially needed during the Pandemic is not compromised. Nothing trumps national security - thus a fine balance will have to be established.

— x —

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. Social audit not only increases accountability and transparency but also facilitates good governance. Discuss. Also, highlight the impediments faced in institutionalizing social audits in India. **(150 words) 10**

सामाजिक अंकेक्षण (सोशल ऑडिट) से न केवल जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता बढ़ती है, बल्कि यह सुशासन को भी सुविधाजनक बनाता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में सामाजिक अंकेक्षण को संस्थागत बनाने में आने वाली बाधाओं को भी रेखांकित कीजिए।

Social audit is the process whereby a public institution throws itself open to the audit by people - the society at large.

→ This can be done by suo moto sharing of information about plans, programmes, budgets, actual expenditure etc or by inviting the civil society to come and inspect the same & answer their queries.

Thus it promotes a culture of

- transparency - openness in sharing information
- Accountability obligatory account of performance shared.
- Good Governance - operationalizes people's

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

participation in analyzing the work of their representatives & keeping them on their toes.

IMPEDIMENTS IN INSTITUTIONALIZING SOCIAL AUDIT –

~~Strch~~ :

- Nature of bureaucracy – Traditional norm is of secrecy over transparency.
- Determining legitimate info – to be shared / audited [what is strategic – what is not? what can be audited – what can't? = Political misuse].
- Determining sincere auditors – who can audit under this mechanism? – People's groups, NGOs, ~~Self help gp.~~ Pressure groups etc challenging to determine
- Data Protection – will be a concern while institutionalizing social audit.

It is a crucial device, often displayed by the Panchayati Raj Institutions must be ~~endeavoured~~ encouraged with necessary caveats.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. Highlight the Quasi-Judicial and Advisory functions of the Election Commission of India. Do you think the powers of the Election Commission need a relook in context of the challenges it has faced in recent years? **(250 words) 15**

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के अर्द्ध-न्यायिक और परामर्शी प्रकार्यों पर प्रकाश डालिए। क्या आप मानते हैं कि हालिया वर्षों में निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा सामना की गयी चुनौतियों के संदर्भ में इसकी शक्तियों को पुनरीक्षित करने की आवश्यकता है?

Election Commission of India is a quasi-judicial constitutional body established under Article 324 of the Constitution with a mandate of overall direction, superintendence and control over conducting free and fair elections in the country.

Among the very many crucial function that it performs are some quasi judicial and advisory functions - viz:

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Quasi Judicial functions –

- Registering Political Parties and deciding disputes regarding registration
- Disputes about allotment of Party symbols. between various parties and candidates.
- Determining operation of model Code of Conduct and taking requisite action against ~~that~~ its violation.

Advisory functions:

- Advises the Law Ministry regarding necessary changes in the interest of free and fair elections –
  viz: – Extending Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot to elderly & disabled.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- ~~Extending the right to vote in~~
- Enabling NRIs to vote in assembly elections (Recently under consideration).

- Advises Govt to make laws on disqualification of corrupt candidates.
- Advises President in matters -
  - Disqualification of sitting MPs.,
  - continuation / Extension of President's rule after 1 year in any State
- Advises Governor on disqualification of MLAs.

Relook on its Powers

- It does not have the powers to deregister Political Parties - needed in the light of corruption.
- Does not have power to appoint special courts to expedite election petitions, corrupt electoral practices, false affidavits.
- No real Powers to check ~~violation~~ violation of MCC - only limits campaigning rights etc.

As the bulwark of the election machinery, ECI needs to be empowered to conduct free & fair elections in true sense of term.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. Increase in the number of judges at the Supreme Court is a welcome step, nonetheless efficient functioning of the judiciary requires broader reforms at all levels of judicial hierarchy. Discuss. (250 words) 15

उच्चतम न्यायालय में न्यायाधीशों की संख्या में वृद्धि एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है, फिर भी न्यायपालिका के प्रभावी कामकाज के लिए न्यायिक पदानुक्रम के सभी स्तरों पर व्यापक सुधार की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Parliament through a constitutional Amendment (outside Article 368) - recently increased the number of Puisne judges ~~by 3~~ in the supreme court ~~to~~ ~~34~~ by 3 - (33 + CJI).

This increase in the number is a welcomed step in the light of → Pendency of cases before the supreme court.

→ Increasing litigation

→ Multifarious role of the honourable SC

- Federal court
- Court of Appeal
- Guarantor of Fundamental Rights
- Final Interpreter of the Constitution.

This merits the increase. Yet, there is much more that needs to be

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

done. There are many issues ailing expeditious judicial machinery in India.

viz -

- Pendency - Chronic Pendency of cases in the lower courts is compounded by growing - vacancies.
- Absence of ~~Machinery~~ approved Machinery like the
  - Gram Nyayalayas
  - Fast Track Courts

  ] - Many states haven't created them.
- Alternative Dispute Settlement
  - Lok Adalats
  - Conciliation / Mediation
  - Arbitration

  ] have a propensity to resolve financial, commercial, family disputes but they aren't established or strengthened / empowered.
- Inadequate Infrastructure - lacking tech interventions.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- Evidence Collection & Processing - weak criminal justice system due to ~~unscient~~ lack of modern evidence collection & sufficient forensic laboratories giving out timely evidence.

These issues impair prompt judicial action across the tall hierarchy of Indian judiciary.

The change has to start from the bottom-most rung - if the lower courts and ADR processes are strengthened enough, high courts & supreme courts can focus on more critical issues involving questions of criminal jurisprudence or that of constitutional interpretation.

Thus, a change is in order and states will have a major role to play in taking up the cause of judicial reform from the lowest level.

— x —

VISION IAS™

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. Federal tensions in India highlight the need for reforming the Seventh Schedule through the addition, removal and appropriate placement of entries. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत में संघीय तनाव, प्रविष्टियों को जोड़ने, हटाने और उचित व्यवस्थापन के माध्यम से सातवीं अनुसूची में सुधार की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

The fine balance of co-operative federalism of the Indian Constitution rests on the wheel of crisp division of powers between the state and the center and sharing thereof. There lies the significance of the Seventh Schedule.

The constitution gives out distribution & division of all

Legislative | Administrative (Executive) | Financial

Powers between the 2 tiers of the Polity.

7th Schedule of the Constitution

Mentions the 3 lists:

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

I Union (100)
II State (61)
III Concurrent (52)
] subjects each.

The legislatures have powers to legislate for their respective territorial jurisdiction. Center has a primacy in matters of concurrent list as well as enjoys legislative powers over residuary subjects.

Many a subjects, it is touted are ill placed in the respective legislative domains:

eg - In the light of the Pandemic it was seen.

Union List	State List	Concurrent List
- Inter state migration & quarantine.	- Public health & sanitation	- Inter state spread of infections control

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- Appropriate Placement would entail placing inter state migration & quarantine in Concurrent list.

Besides - No entry provides a case to invoke the disaster management Act so the center had to invoke 'social security' entry from concurrent list to invoke the Act and deal with the Pandemic. This merits addition of an entry to such effect.

- The Seventh Schedule was last touched in 1976 through the 42nd CAA. The times & exigencies have evolved for the country. As N.K. Singh, Chairman 14th Finance Commission recently claimed that states are keen on a revision of the lists to cater to the reformed taxation system under GST and deal more constructively with center & each other. The case merits a consideration.

—x—

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. What do you understand by doctrine of eminent domain? How can it be applied to understand the evolution of right to property under the Indian constitution? **(250 words) 15**

सर्वोपरि अधिग्रहण-अधिकार के सिद्धांत (doctrine of eminent domain) मे आप क्या समझते हैं? भारतीय संविधान के अंतर्गत संपत्ति के अधिकार के विकास को समझने हेतु इसे कैसे लागू किया जा सकता है?

Doctrine of eminent domain ~~suggests~~ was touted by the Supreme Court in the context of acquisition of private property by the state.

It suggests it is the "eminent domain" of the state to make laws for public welfare and appropriate private property if needed in public interest.

Yet, it must ~~be~~ not be done arbitrarily as the Indian Constitution suggests.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Evolution of Right To Property

- 1951 - 19(1) - Right to acquire, hold, dispose of property
  31 - No person deprived of private property save by authority of law -
  a) for public purposes
  b) in exchange for due consideration.

- Land Reforms, Abolition of Zamindari etc. required making many laws that brought it under question repetedly.
  - Shankari Prasad Case (1951)
  - Golaknath Case (1967)

Right to property was repetedly being restricted by state to fulfill its welfare mandate through Constitutional Amendments.
- 1st CAA, 1951 - IX th schedule created

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17th CAA - put various land reforms in the IX th schedule.

→ ultimately - Kesavanand Bharati case (1973) decided state's ~~right~~ constituent power to amend Fundamental Rights without interfering with basic structure.

- Right To Property - Not a part of basic structure.

→ 44th CAA, 1978 - Abolished Fundamental Right to property.

19(1)(f) & 31 repealed

- legal Right created - 300A Part XII.

Now Right to private property is a legal right, state cannot deprive a person of property save by authority of law. Protection against executive action but not against legislative action. Also, compensation not mandatory - only so when property of minority educational institution taken away or land under personal cultivation 31A taken away.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Explain the structure and function of the National Commission for Backward Classes. What is the significance of recent changes made in its status? **(250 words) 15**
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग की संरचना एवं प्रकार्यों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। इसकी प्रस्थिति में किए गए हालिया परिवर्तनों का क्या महत्व है?

National Commission for Backward Classes is envisaged as a protector & safeguarder of the rights and constitutional guarantees for the Backward Classes.

HISTORY

- The Commission was 1st set up as a statutory body in 1993 after the Indira Sawhney Judgement (1992). The court had asked for creation of a commission to suggest & look into the matter of over inclusion, exclusion etc. of the backward classes in the OBC list.

Don't write anything in this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019

Provided a constitutional status to the Commission by inserting articles 338B and 442A in the Constitution.

Structure - Chairman
Vice chairman
+ 3 other members.
appointed by the President.
Their terms & condition of service too, be determined by the President.

Function - It will perform ~~those~~ the following functions with regards to the backward classes: (They were hitherto performed by National Commission for Scheduled Castes).

- Examine access & operation of all the constitutional guarantees ~~to~~ ~~the~~ other legal guarantees to the

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

members of Backward classes.

- look into complaints of violations of their rights
- Take suo moto cognizance of violations as well.
- Accept presentations from various sections of society for the rights & conditions of backward classes.

Report to the President regarding the above matters & conditions of the Backward classes when asked for or annually. who shall cause it to lay before the Parliament.

Significance of constitutional status:

- At par with NC for scheduled castes and can now look into cases of violation of guarantees earlier it only had recommendatory functions for OBC list.
- OBC's concerns given due separate ~~constitution~~ considerations and recognition as different from SCs.

Thus the constitutional status to the commission is a step in the right direction and will go a long way in ensuring promotion of status & cause of OBCs in the society —x—

Don't write anything in this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Justice' in the 'Preamble'. Highlight some constitutional and legal steps taken towards each of them in India.
(250 words) 15

उद्देशिका' में प्रयुक्त 'न्याय' शब्द से जुड़े प्रत्येक विशेषण की विवेचना कीजिए। भारत में उनमें से प्रत्येक की दिशा में उठाए गए कुछ संवैधानिक और विधिक कदमों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Preamble of India is rightly labelled as the key to the minds of our constitution makers and entails a grand & noble vision for India. ~~Every adjective~~ Among the various adjectives attached to terms as the objectives of the Indian constitutions that it intends to secure to its people — one is that of JUSTICE: SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & POLITICAL

These tall ideals were borrowed from the constitution of erstwhile USSR. They entail the ideals of the social democracy that Indian state is touted to be.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- **Social Justice** - Entails equality of social status in terms of fairness. No discrimination on caste, religion, gender, economic or any other arbitrary grounds. This itself merits taking special affirmative action for those not as "equal" ~~or~~ as others so that Justice can permeate.

Constitutional

- 15(4), 15(4A), 15(6) - Reservations in education
- 16(4), 16(4A) - Reservations in jobs.
- 335 - Taking claims of SC/ST into consideration.
- 15 - No discrimination on grounds of gender
  - ↳ women | LGBTQI
- 17 - Abolition of untouchability
- DPSPs

Legal steps

- SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989
- FRA, 2006.
- Civil Rights Protection Act, 1955 et al

- **Economic Justice** - The opportunity to earn decent livelihood and secure decent standard of living.

- secured through affirmative actions and

Legal
- Wages code, 2020
- Industrial Relations code 2020
- Occupational safety, health & working condition code, 2020. (subsumes various previous Acts of equal wages etc.).

- **Political Justice** - The right to elect, vote, participate freely & fairly in elections, political debates and enjoy civil liberties along with other political rights.

secured through → Article 326 - Universal Adult suffrage. Right to vote

- Fundamental Rights
  - ↳ civil liberties protected - Article 19, 21, 20, 22.
- RPA, 1951
  - ↳ entitles electoral participation to broadly all.

Thus, ~~the preamble~~ every adjective in the Preamble to our constitution is a promise by state to its citizens and the to its noble vision for its people which the Constitution & the state have sincerely tried to uphold so far.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. What are the challenges in conducting free and fair elections in the era of proliferation of social media? In this context, identifying the steps taken by the ECI, suggest further measures. (250 words) 15

सोशल मीडिया के प्रसार के युग में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव के संचालन में आने वाली चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं? इस संदर्भ में, ECI द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की पहचान करते हुए आगे के उपायों को सुझाइए।

~~As~~ In,

Elections are the bulwark of Indian Parliamentary democracy. India has come a long way from the days of being a nascent democracy in 1951 that conducted its first elections with ~~and~~ the Universal Adult suffrage.

Election commission of India - has gone from strength to strength in further making the process of seamless, fair, free and accessible.

- In this day of social media proliferation Regulation of Elections pose the following challenges:

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- Monitoring campaigns - social media is 24x7, all pervasive platform and monitoring the ~~quantit~~ quality of campaigns cannot ~~be~~ be as easy as allotting TV broadcast slots now. The 48 hour limit on poll content presentation u/s 126A of the RPA 1951 is difficult to monitor on such platform.
- What qualifies as a poll content is debatable too - era of pamphlets is gone. Whatsapp forwards, Profile Pictures can be content enough for poll publicity.
- Violation of Model Code of Conduct is more rampant under overt & covert means - in twitter wars & social media comment sections. It is impossible to monitor it to that point. - But it does eventually affect polls since we are so used to the social media now -

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

it affects our opinion more than anything else.

Steps taken by the ECI

- SVEEP activities - To spread awareness against social media influence
- Mobile Application - To report violation of MCC by ~~people~~ candidates through posting pictures, videos on the app. Every voter is a poll officer now.
- Issued social media advertisement guidelines for Political Parties -

Other Measures

- Official Account on social media must be verified and registered with ECI by all political parties & candidates. Their monitoring be done.
- Social Media cells of political parties be regulated. ECI must get a dedicated IT cell to monitor these cells and charge them for MCC violation.

ECI as the election stalwart needs more teeth as an institution to check election corruption using social media. to protect this carnival of democracy called Elections.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. Explain how the linkage between banks, NGOs and SHGs helps in facilitating access to microfinance and contributes to the development of rural areas. (250 words) 15

स्पष्ट कीजिए कि बैंकों, NGOs और SHGs के मध्य संपर्क किस प्रकार सूक्ष्म वित्त तक पहुँच को सुविधाजनक बनाने में सहायता करता है तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के विकास में योगदान देता है।

Rural development has been a prime policy agenda since the independence days. Various initiatives and institutions contribute to it but Mahatama Gandhi's model of village self-development has been the most efficient answer so far.

People's organizations like:

- Self Help Groups & NGOs have been steering rural development.

Their main domain of activity has been – MSMEs – small enterprises, self employment generation particularly targeting women and the marginalized groups like tribals

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

and depressed classes.
Access to formal credit is a major impediment in their growth story - credit

why
- low credit worthiness - do not have access to formal institutions
- No collaterals
- illiteracy - Resist formal documentation

This is where Bank linkages help them.

otherwise - Informal credit buries them in the debt trap, deprives them of their meagre assets and discourages entrepreneurship.

~~NGOs + SHGs + Bank linkages~~:

SHGs → NGOs (LINK) ← Banks

SHGs: have entrepreneurial spirit, hands, and seek credit + specialized assistance

NGOs: Provide functional literacy, access to banks & help them secure credit

Banks: commercial banks, RRBs, LDBs, Co-operative banks, are provided with refinance facility from

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

NABARD to extend to these SHGs.

- Thus credit fuelled SHGs (with the help of NGOs) undertake various rural development initiatives –
  eg – small food processing businesses, textile & weaving entities, rural ~~pub~~ education works

SEWA the informal SHG & trade union of unorganized sector women is a viable example in this regard. Formed by Ela Ben of international fame, it is a success model.

Various govt. initiatives tap this linkage – MUDRA Yojana, Credit linked subsidy Model, SHG-Bank linkage Programme, Jan Dhan Yojana – Bank correspondents are often the NGO volunteers.

Thus, this Bank–NGO–SHG link is a potential success model with emulation and pursuance.

X

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. Identify the different issues associated with the design and implementation of MGNREGA. What reforms have been taken in recent times to address the above-identified issues? (250 words) 15

मनरेगा (MGNREGA) की अभिकल्पना और कार्यान्वयन से जुड़े विभिन्न मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए। उपर्युक्त चिन्हित समस्याओं का समाधान करने के लिए हाल के दिनों में क्या सुधार किए गए हैं?

MGNREGA, 2005 is the a potent rural developer designed and launched to provide employment guarantee - atleast 100 man days of work to every rural household annually.

This is India's answer to its problem of chronic unemployment particularly in the rural areas.

Despite being a leveller of social-economic justice MGNREGA suffers from certain challenges:

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- No. of man days - only 100 per annum is too less
- ~~only 5 person for~~ eg - In the COVID lockdown, it had to be increased to provide employment guarantee to migrants.
- Wage delay - MGNREGA wages are almost never paid on time due to issues relating to release of funds, improper bank accounts etc.
- Wage subpar - As an employment guarantee programme the wages offered are below state determined wages in most cases. Not fit for ~~sustenance~~ subsistence level.
- MGNREGA work - design and determination is highly varied. It is left to local bodies

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

but they hardly have the expertise to ~~do~~ design effective work programe.

Solutions

1. MGNREGA work design - should be pursued as a challenge to youngsters ~~for~~ in association with the local bodies. Viable projects must be designed & implemented.

2. Wage dissemination - must be prompt. DBT use must be deepened.

2. Wage determination - Must be scientific and economic.

There is a limit to public spending specially with Pandemic constrained resources. PPP projects can be targetted under MGNREGA for better design & implementation.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. A sound legal framework, robust institutional mechanism for establishing rule of law, competent and dedicated workforce and decentralization and delegation are some of the necessary preconditions for good governance. Elaborate. **(250 words) 15**

एक सुदृढ़ विधिक ढांचा, विधि के शासन को स्थापित करने के लिए मजबूत संस्थागत तंत्र, सक्षम और समर्पित कार्यबल तथा विकेंद्रीकरण एवं प्रत्यायोजन सुशासन हेतु कुछ आवश्यक पूर्वापेक्षाएं हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Good governance is the dream and vision of every welfare state to its people.

Good governance is easy to define but difficult to operationalize. It is a complex interplay of various factors such as –

Sound legal framework – Effective, well defined laws. dealing with powers, authorities, functions and limitations to them, put over the public officials as well as citizens.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- Institutional Mechanisms - like independent judiciary, dedicated cadres of law enforcers, institutions of ombudsmen, social audits in place to operationalize the laws & establish rule of law in effect.

- The People - A dedicated and committed workforce in administration that puts duty, sense of service above personal interests and serves without lust for power, material resources & with courage & compassion - much needed in modern diverse societies.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

decentralization - Effective dispersal of authority across all levels of administration to empower them to respond reasonably to specific local conditions (diverse).

Delegation is central to decentralization it entails giving out requisite authority to the subordinates to take decisions in certain matters. Enforces quick decision making, prompt response to opportunities & challenges.

These are intrinsic components of good governance that cannot be ignored by any welfare state today.